

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action mailed January 3, 2007: claims 14-16, 19 and 22-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; claims 12, 13, 17, 18, 20 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takatani et al. in view of Rumbach and Watanabe et al. '847; claims 22 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takatani et al. in view of Watanabe et al. '061; claims 27-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takatani et al. in view of Watanabe et al. '061, and further in view of Watanabe et al. '847; and claims 14-16, 19 and 23-26 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In order to discuss the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejection, on June 29, 2007, a telephonic interview was conducted with Examiner Beauchaine. During the interview Examiner Beauchaine explained that the basis for this rejection is that the phrase "always downwardly pressing" is ambiguous as to whether the function of downwardly pressing is performed only during operation of the apparatus, or at all times. Upon further discussion, it was agreed that deletion of the term "always" from claims 14, 19 and 22 would obviate this rejection. Thus, claims 14, 19 and 22 have been amended so as to remove therefrom the term "always".

The indication of allowable subject matter is greatly appreciated; however, the allowable claims have not been rewritten in independent form, but rather independent claims 12 and 22 have been amended so as to more clearly bring out an inventive feature of the invention and define around the relied-upon references.

In this regard, claim 12 has been amended to recite that the position of the coin feeding member relative to the coin passage is adjustable in *horizontally* longitudinal and lateral directions of the coin passage. In supporting the rejection of claim 12 the Examiner recognizes that the feeding member 24 of Takatani et al., is not adjustable, and thus relied upon Watanabe

'847 to remedy this deficiency of Takatani et al. Specifically, the Examiner took the position that guide roller 31 of Watanabe '847 is a coin feeding member that is adjustable relative to coin passage 22 in longitudinal and lateral directions of the coin passage. However, it is respectfully submitted that guide roller 31 of Watanabe '847 does not correspond to the coin feeding member of the present invention. Additionally, assuming arguendo, that the guide roller 31 of Watanabe et al. does correspond to the coin feeding member of the present invention, a position of the guide roller 31 is not adjustable in a horizontally lateral direction, but is rather adjustable in a **vertical** direction. In this regard, please note that Fig. 5 of Watanabe '847 shows a side view of coin passage 22 and guide roller 31. This deficiency is not remedied by Rumbach, whereby claim 12 is not obvious over a combination of Takatani et al., Watanabe '847 and Rumbach.

Claim 22 has been amended to recite that the coin presser mechanism is for downwardly pressing, *only* by dead weight, an upper surface of an uppermost one of the coins when stacked in the coin stacking section *while conveyed coins are sequentially stacked therein*. In supporting the rejection of claim 22 the Examiner recognizes that Takatani et al. fails to disclose a presser mechanism, and thus relies upon Watanabe et al. '061 to remedy this deficiency of Takatani et al. Specifically, the Examiner equated 12, 14, 19 of Watanabe et al. '061 to the claimed coin presser mechanism; however, it is respectfully submitted that 12, 14, 19 of Watanabe et al. does not correspond to the coin presser mechanism of the instant invention. In this regard, Watanabe et al. '061 discloses electrode 14 that is downwardly moved by upper delivery arm 12 to contact with an uppermost one of a plurality of stacked coins 23 **after** the coins 23 are stacked in cylinder 2 (column 3, lines 54-68). Additionally, delivery arm 12 of Watanabe et al. '061 is not moved downwardly only by dead weight, but is rather moved downwardly and upwardly by some moving mechanism driven by driving motor (M) (column 3, line 54 to column 4, line 7). Thus, claim 22 is not obvious over a combination of Takatani et al. and Watanabe et al. '061.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner believes that any issues remain which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative by telephone to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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